

Message Text

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21

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 FEA-01 ERDA-05 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00

CIEP-01 COME-00 DODE-00 EB-07 FPC-01 H-02 INR-07

INT-05 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OMB-01 PM-03 USIA-06

SAM-01 OES-03 SP-02 SS-15 STR-04 TRSE-00 FRB-03 PA-01

PRS-01 /094 W

----- 107557

R 290410Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3187

INFO AMEMBASSY DOHA

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMCONGEN DHAHRAN

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE ABU DHABI 1569

3.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ENRG, TC

SUBJECT: OFF-SHORE OIL WELL BLOW-OUT IN DUBAI

1. ABOUT A WEEK AGO DUBAI PETROLEUM COMPANY SUFFERED BLOWOUT IN ONE OF OFFSHORE WELLS IT IS DRILLING. BLOWOUT OCCURRED AT 4,800 FEET DEPTH SHORT OF OIL-PRODUCING STRATUM AND CONSISTED OF GAS AND WATER UNDER HIGH PRESSURE, BUT NO OIL. THERE WAS NO LOSS OF LIFE, BUT DRILLING WORKS ON THIS PLATFORM WILL BE A TOTAL LOSS. BECAUSE GAS DID NOT IMMEDIATELY IGNITE, PRODUCTION WAS CUT OFF THROUGHOUT AL-FATAH FIELD FOR PAST WEEK. ESCAPING GAS IS NOW IGNITED, PRODUCING COLUMN OF FLAME ABOUT 150 FEET HIGH. PARTIAL PRODUCTION FROM FIELD HAS NOW BEEN RESUMED. DPC HAS ARRANGED FOR THREE RIGS IN VICINITY, INCLUDING ONE FROM ARAMCO, TO COME TO SCENE TO DRILL DIRECTIONAL HOLES IN EFFORT TO PUT OUT FIRE.

2. DPC ALSO HAD SEVERE BLOW OUT AND PROLONGED FIRE LAST YEAR, WHICH
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CAUSED REDUCED PRODUCTION FOR CONSIDERABLE PERIOD OF TIME. ACCORDING

TO DPC MANAGEMENT CURRENT BLOWOUT AND FIRE IS NOT AS SERIOUS AS
LAST YEAR'S AND SHOULD BE EASIER TO PUT OUT. HOWEVER, DPC CON-
CERNED ENOUGH TO SEND GENERAL MANAGER SHEPHERD TO LONDON TO BRIEF
DUBAI RULER SHAIKH RASHID, WHERE LATTER IS PRESENTLY ON VACATION.
STERNER

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NNN

Message Attributes

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Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: OFFSHORE OIL FIELDS, EXPLOSIONS
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Draft Date: 29 JUL 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: KelleyW0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
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Margaret P. Grafeld
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TAGS: ENRG, TC, DUBAI PETROLEUM COMPANY
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006